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FRANK L. HOOGS.....MANAGER

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### The Annals Of The Poor

The short and simple annals of the poor, in these days of statistics, specialists, official reports, and book writing, are apt to be spun out to inordinate length and to be involved in all the subtleties and intricacies with which those who have theories to formulate or sustain can invest them. But when these short and simple annals are presented in as attractive interesting and vivid a way as they sometimes are, even grandeur can hardly disdain them, as grandeur was urged not to disdain them in the Elegy in a Country Churchyard.

The bulletin of the bureau of labor for May contains some annals of some of the poor of Washington city which grand and simple may read with more than passing interest. Half the world, it is said, does not know how the other half lives and, we may add, gets its living. Dr. Forman, of that bureau, thought that it is quite as important to know how the very poor manage to live, how they live and the conditions of their lives, as it is that we should gather facts from which we draw the comfortable conclusion that our benign and parental government has made us all, if not rich, at least prosperous and happy, our working classes put beyond penury and relieved from the howls of the wolf at the door.

So he found nineteen families in that city who had intelligence and honesty enough to keep for five weeks an accurate account of income and outgo, how money was earned and how and for what spent, and who were willing to co-operate with the investigator. His families were sober, industrious and moral. But they were, though not in the lowest depths, very close to the poverty line, sometimes below it, but never very far from it. In each case outgo always equaled, sometimes exceeded, income, and saving money was about impossible. "The loss of a day's wages would have caused keen embarrassment, the loss of a week's wages would have meant serious discomfort, if not suffering, while the loss of a month's wages would have resulted in enforced appeals to charity." He gives the number in the family, ages of children, income from wages, kind and condition of housing and rent paid. Three of the weeks covered were in summer and two, in winter. Tables present the data gathered and analyzed. One shows that outgo for food ranges from 69.3 per cent of income to 33 per cent; the former in the case of a woman, deserted by husband, with five children, the oldest a girl of 15 who earned \$4 a week, while the mother earned about the same by taking in washing; the latter a family of four, with two children, one 4, the other a baby, the husband earning from \$7 to \$10 a week. Food used up 54 per cent of income on an average.

Interesting as are the data gathered and clearly presented, the statement that these cases are not exceptional, but very common the country over is, especially in view of some speeches made in congress in the latest session, disillusioning. The cases investigated form "a very large segment of society." The facts of their domestic economy are representative of those of thousands in the District. Taking the country over, they are representatives of millions of honest, industrious citizens who help to make the world around us the pleasant place it is.

### The Bellicose Nipponese

After all, a careful reading of that bellicose "defi" of the Nipponese, published in the Japanese Daily Chronicle ought not to set Old Glory in a flutter. When it is taken into consideration that the writer is trying to express himself in a language of which he has not idiomatic command, it will readily be seen that most of the things that sound the worst, sound that way simply because the writer has not a thorough command of the language, and uses expressions, which a careful consultation of the dictionary would seem to prove are the right ones to express the thought in mind, yet which to the ear of those whose mother tongue it is, conveys an altogether different meaning.

Any American who has attempted the use of a foreign language especially where his use of that language is held up for dissection, criticism and controversy, will appreciate the difficulties, and be lenient in judgment.

There is no doubt that Americans are more prone than any other people to be swashbuckling, and supercilious in their treatment of men of other nationalities, and there is no doubt that in infinitude of cases they exhibit a discourtesy and impoliteness of manner that is irritating, even when there is no real thought or intention of discourtesy or impoliteness. As Americans we are apt in our inner consciousness to think better of those who resent this than of those who don't.

As for keeping a Japanese warship here, Honolulu would not object if every maritime nation in the world kept a warship here.

### Simplified Spelling

Simplified spelling seems to be making progress. The New York City Board of Education has adopted the spelling of three hundred words listed by the Simplified Spelling Board. As indicating how conservative the Simplified Spelling Board is in its efforts, the list will occasion some surprise. There is scarcely a word in the list, if indeed there is a word in the list, which will strike the average reader as an innovation. There is scarcely one which most readers of current periodical literature have not actually seen in their reading. Indeed the list is rather disappointing to those who have expected something radical.

Many of the words, such as "color," "candor," merely drop the "u" which the English have retained, but which in America has been dropped for years, indeed, in many cases the "u" was dropped out by Noah Webster. In a large number of cases the simplified spelling consists in spelling such words as are, in form, past participles, whether used as nouns, adjectives, or other parts of speech, by the addition of the letter "t" to the simple form of the word instead of doubling the final consonant and adding "ed." Examples of this are, "chapt," "kist," "stopt." None of these are entirely new.

Another class of words are those derived from the Greek in which the Greek diphthong has been retained until now, it is recommended to drop the unessential vowel of the diphthong. Such words as "anaesthetic," and "anaemia" are recommended to be spelled, "anasthetic" and "anemia."

Another class of words are those from the French, as "reconnoitre" where it is recommended to follow the English succession of letters and spell it "reconnoiter."

Another class consists of such words as "decatalogue," "catalogue," "demagogue," where it is recommended to drop the final "ue." Where the letter "s" is used with the "z" sound, it is recommended that "z" be used, thus leaving "s" to represent fewer sounds than it does now.

On the whole the changes are surprisingly few and moderate in

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their character. Much that is proposed has already been done. In fact in the list given the Simplified Board say that in every case two forms of spelling are in use, and they have only recommended the universal adoption of the simpler form, the one more in consonance with the general principles of simplified spelling which it is sought to establish.

It isn't until one sees the different schools and the teachers' names all in one list, that one realizes what a big organization the school system of the Territory is.

The general prosperity that exists in New Zealand attributes her prosperity, plauded in every other country, but seemingly no other country is in a hurry to adopt the measures to which New Zealand attributes her prosperity.

With Charles Hustace a candidate for supervisor and John Hughes a candidate for the legislature, it cannot be said that there are not some good men willing to serve the public.

Some of these people who run for County office at one election and for the legislature at the next, lapping over and doubling the terms of their offices, may run up against the electors as well as the governor, some of these days.

If Battling Nelson wins his fight against Joe Gans and gets the \$20,000 which is to be his share, he can go to Hegewisch, Indiana, his home, and buy considerable more real estate and income producing town property.

Father Beissel's treatment of the Robinson controversy is so moderate that it is almost a disappointment to those who have so much enjoyed his keen belligerency in the past.

The Board of Education has made it known to the teachers of the public schools that they do not want teachers to be lobbying with individual members to secure changes to pleasanter or more profitable schools. Still doubtless the individual members will look after their particular friends among the teachers.

#### TOPICS IN BRIEF.

John Sharp Williams has nominated Mr. Bryan for President on the first

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bailed and ejected him. Yet stranger things have happened in American politics.—New York World.

A man in Camden, N. J., got a postal card which had been mailed to him in that city twenty years before. The postal service may be slow in New Jersey—but just think how sure it is.—New York Press.

Thomas A. Edison says he expects soon to place the automobile in the reach of all. It would be much better if he would find a way to place all of us out of the reach of the automobiles.—Houston Post.

The proposition to remove the policemen from the White House and place soldiers on guard has not met with great favor. In view of the stories being told a detachment of marines would seem more appropriate.—Washington Post.

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